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32 PAGES OF CONTENT!

Grimm Universe

BELLE

THE SHAPE OF FEAR

GUEST STARRING

SLEEPING BEAUTY

FRANCHINI • XAVIER • RODRIGUEZ • ESPOSITO

BELLE

THE SHAPE OF FEAR

Belle "Anabelle" DiMarco's waking world is haunted by the beasts that she is sworn to hunt, but when something causes those same creatures to pervade her dreams, she begins to question her own sanity. Now, she must fight a battle that she can't dream of winning –but with the help of an uneasy ally she may be able to wake from this nightmare! Guest starring Sleeping Beauty!

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TO ME, THERE'S NOTHING MORE TERRIFYING AND EQUALLY AMAZING THAN THE HUMAN MIND.

AND YES, I KNOW, I'M PROBABLY SOUNDING LIKE I'M TRYING TO BE SMARTER THAN I AM...

...BUT IT'S JUST SOMETHING I KEEP FINDING MYSELF REALLY THINKING ABOUT RECENTLY AND I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO EXPLAIN IT.

OF COURSE WE ALL REALIZE OUR BRAIN WAKES US UP--IT GIVES US THOUGHT--IT, MOST OF THE TIME EFFORTLESSLY, GETS US THROUGH THE DAY.

BUT WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED--MYSELF INCLUDED, SOMETIMES--WHEN WE SHOULD BE TREADING LIGHTLY AROUND IT.

THIS THING WE LIVE WITH--WE ARE--IT RULES THE SHELL WE EXIST IN AND WE BARELY GIVE IT THE CREDIT IT DESERVES.

IT CAN BUILD WHOLE WORLDS, AND IN HALF A SECOND, BRING THEM ALL CRASHING DOWN.

IT CAN MOTIVATE US--DEMORALIZE US--FREEZE US IN PLACE AND LOCK US OUT OF OUR OWN THOUGHTS...

...AND THAT'S WHERE IT GETS SCARY.

WE THINK WE CONTROL IT, BUT FOR MOST OF US--ALL OF US--IT'S THE ONE IN CONTROL.

THINK ABOUT IT...

...HAS THERE EVER BEEN A TIME WHEN YOU JUST CAN'T GET SOMETHING OUT OF YOUR MIND...?

...WHEN YOU DIG AND FIGHT FOR IT--NO MATTER HOW DEEP YOU GO--BUT IT STAYS OUT OF YOUR REACH?

TAKE THIS PLACE FOR EXAMPLE...

...FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS I'VE BEEN HAVING THIS SAME DREAM...

...ABOUT THIS SAME DAMN CABIN.

YEAH...AND THAT'S THE MESSED UP PART--I KNOW THIS IS A DREAM, BUT THAT'S ABOUT AS USEFUL AS KNOWING THE WORLD IS FULL OF OXYGEN...

...I CAN'T GET A HOLD OF IT NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN CONTROL--IT JUST IS...

...AND EACH TIME I FALL ASLEEP, I PUSH A LITTLE BIT FURTHER...

...A LITTLE BIT CLOSER...

...UNSUCCESSFULLY GRABBING AIR.

BUT, UNTIL RIGHT NOW...

...THIS IS THE FURTHEST I'VE MADE IT...

...THE FURTHEST MY MIND HAS ALLOWED ME TO GO.

AND EACH TIME...

...AS I TRY AND SEE WHAT LIES BEYOND THE WALL, I'M DRAGGED BACK TO THE REAL WORLD.

BUT NOT THIS TIME...

...NO--THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT.

THIS TIME...

...I'M NOT EVEN SURE.

IS THIS...

...WHERE AM I?

YOU--ARE NOT WHERE YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE!

WHAT THE HELL?!

IS THAT--IS THAT THE FACELESS WOMAN?*

YOU ARE NOT MEANT FOR THIS!

*SEE BELLE: FROM BEYOND FOR HER STORY!

OH, NO...!

NO...NO... NO...

YOU WILL SUFFER FOR YOUR TRESPASSES!

WAKE UP--WAKE UP, BELLE!

I NEED TO--

--WAKE UP.

HUH--?!

--OH-- WHAT'S UP, MEL?

YOU WERE HAVING THAT CABIN DREAM AGAIN, WEREN'T YOU?

YES...

NO... NO. I WAS DREAMING ABOUT THE SOPRANOS... THE ONE WITH CHRISTOPHER AND COSETTE...YOU KNOW--

OH, SHUT UP.

YOU WERE TWISTING AND TURNING AND MUTTERING A BUNCH OF THINGS UNDER YOUR BREATH.

YOU ACT LIKE I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.

SADLY...SHE DOES...

UH, WELL, YOU DON'T, MISS KNOW-IT-ALL.

I HAVEN'T BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT CABIN FOR DAYS.

WHO AM I KIDDING--MEL'S MY BEST FRIEND--SHE LITERALLY KNOWS IT ALL...

OY VEY, HERSHEY.

SHE ACTS LIKE SHE DOESN'T SPILL ALL HER DEEPEST AND DARKEST SECRETS TO US EVERY NIGHT--

--EVEN WHEN WE DON'T ASK--EVEN WHEN WE BEG HER TO STOP--

--ESPECIALLY WHEN.

...AND SHE'S A PAIN IN THE ASS.

HEY--WELL, IF I'M SO ANNOYING WITH SHARING MY THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS MAYBE I'LL JUST START KEEPING EVERYTHING TO MYSELF.

UH, HUH-- GOOD LUCK WITH THAT, CRAZY-PANTS.

WHY DON'T YOU BUY A BOOK OR HEAD TO THE LIBRARY AND TRY TO LOOK UP WHAT YOUR DREAMS MIGHT MEAN?

SO I'M JUST SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE LIBRARY AND SEE IF THEY HAVE A SECTION ON NIGHTMARES CAUSED BY OTHERWORLDLY MONSTERS?

YEAH, SURE, START THERE.

HERE.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY-- WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

SOME OF US DON'T HAVE A JOB THAT GIVES US THE SUMMER OFF, AND ACTUALLY HAVE TO WORK TO PAY BILLS FOR THE APARTMENT THEY LIVE IN--

--AND THAT THEY LET THEIR FRIENDS CRASH ON THE COUCH OF.

NOW GO READ A BOOK.

LIKE I SAID-- PAIN IN THE ASS...

...BUT SHE'S RIGHT--SHE'S ALWAYS RIGHT...WELL, SOMETIMES.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, HERSH--?

--SHOULD I TAKE THE BOSS' ADVICE?

OKAY, OKAY--YOU'RE RIGHT--YOU'RE THE BOSS-- AND...

Free Library of Philadelphia.

"...I'LL GO READ A BOOK."

I FEEL LIKE I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN FOREVER.

AND AS MUCH AS I TRIED TO ARGUE WITH MEL ABOUT IT--I ACTUALLY LOVE IT HERE.

I MISS HAVING TIME TO READ AND TAKE IN THOUGHTS THAT AREN'T MY OWN. BUT EVEN SO--

--I FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST SPENT THREE HOURS STARING AT A WALL.

WHY AREN'T THERE ANY BOOKS THAT JUST ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INTRICACIES OF THE SUBCONSCIOUS DREAMING MINDS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN PASSED A LEGACY DOWN THROUGH THEIR BLOODLINE TO HUNT MONSTERS AND BEASTS--?

--YOU'D THINK SOMEONE WOULD HAVE WRITTEN THAT BY NOW.

HMM--THERE'S A MILLION DOLLAR IDEA, OR MAYBE FOR LIKE ONE OTHER PERSON IN THE WORLD.

WHATEVER, NOW I'M JUST SIDE-TRACKING MYSELF--FOCUS, BELLE--YOU'RE WASTING--

NIGHTMARES AND WHAT THEY MEAN

DREAMS VOL.1

OF DREAMS VOL.2

of Nightmares

UHM... EXCUSE ME?

YEAH?

I CHECKED WITH ONE OF THE LIBRARIANS ABOUT A COPY OF ALTERNATE REALITIES OF SLEEP AND THEY MENTIONED YOU PULLED THE ONLY COPY--

--YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE DONE WITH IT, WOULD YOU?

I THINK I FLIPPED THROUGH THAT ONE ALREADY-- IT'S RIGHT THERE IN ONE OF THESE PILES.

ALTERNATE REALITIES OF SLEEP

UNDERSTANDING YOUR DREAMS

UH--SORRY, BUT DO YOU THINK YOU COULD BE MORE SPECIFIC?

SURE, I MEAN IT'S RIGHT--

EALITIES OF SLEEP

NDING YOUR DREAMS

HEY, LOOK, LET'S NOT DO THE WHOLE "AWKWARD WITH A BLIND PERSON" ROUTINE--

--IT'S OKAY.

OH, COME ON-- SERIOUSLY--

--I'M...I'M ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE NOW?

HEY, I'M REALLY SORRY-- IT'S JUST BEEN A LONG DAY AND I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BETTER HUMAN IN GENERAL AND--

--WELL, IN MY DEFENSE, YOU DON'T REALLY SEE BLIND PEOPLE IN A LIBRARY AND--

OH, REALLY?

THAT'S THE DEFENSE YOU'RE GOING WITH?

OH, CRAP-- NO...NO...

...JUST SHUT UP, BELLE...

...JUST STOP TALKING.

I-- NO--I'M SORRY.

HERE JUST-- YOU CAN HAVE ALL MY BOOKS-- I HONESTLY DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO RECOVER FROM THIS ENTIRE SITUATION.

HA-- DON'T WORRY, IT'S COOL--I'M JUST MESSING WITH YOU.

SO YOU'RE NOT BLIND?

OH, NO I'M BLIND--YOU JUST HAD AN ABOVE-AVERAGE AWKWARD CONVERSATION WITH A BLIND WOMAN--THAT HAPPENED.

WELL, THEN DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY--BUT THESE BOOKS AREN'T BRAILLE--

--HOW DO YOU--?

THIS LITTLE GUY--

ANY MORE QUESTIONS OR CAN I GRAB THAT BOOK?

--SCANS THE WORDS--TELLS ME WHAT THEY SAY.

NO--TAKE IT BEFORE I MAKE MORE OF AN ASS OF MYSELF--PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU.

SMART CHOICE--

--AND THANK YOU.

YEP...NO PROBLEM.

HEY, LOOK, I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT-- I'M NOT USUALLY LIKE THAT.

RUDE AND AWKWARD TO BLIND PEOPLE?

HA--WELL, I'M ALWAYS AWKWARD, BUT YEAH-- I TRY NOT TO BE TOO RUDE, THAT'S MY FRIEND MEL'S JOB.

BUT ANYWAY, MY NAME IS ANABELLE...

...ANABELLE DiMARCO.

WELL, ANABELLE "SOMETIMES RUDE TO BLIND AND AWKWARD TO ALL" DiMARCO--I'M RORY-- RORY NORRIS.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

BUT SERIOUSLY, DON'T WORRY. YOU DIDN'T OFFEND ME-- WE'RE GOOD.

OKAY-- *THANKS!*

SO, THAT FELT MOSTLY TERRIBLE...

...BUT I THINK I RECOVERED THERE.

NOW BACK TO THE RESEARCH...

...THIS SUPER...

...NOT BORING...

...RESEARCH...

HRM...?

...MUST HAVE DOZED OFF--

--OR NOT!

UHM, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!

AM I--?

--I AM--

--I'M DREAMING...

...BUT... THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.

THIS FEELS LIKE WHEN I DREAM ABOUT THE CABIN...

...BUT THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT THE CABIN.

IS THIS--?

--THIS IS STILL THE LIBRARY AND...

...NEVER MIND...

...DEFINITELY NOT THE LIBRARY.

HRRSS

--?!

--WHAT THE--

HRRSSS

--$^#&@!

--UMMFHH!

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?!

ERFH--

--BETTER YET...

...WHAT DO YOU W--

--WWAAAANNT--

--OMMPHH!

--HRRSKK--

WHOA--AND TO PILE ON TOP OF ALL THOSE QUESTIONS--WHERE THE HELL DID MY GEAR COME FROM?

AND WHY AM I SPEAKING ALL MY THOUGHTS--?

--WHAT IS GOING ON HERE--WHAT KIND OF DREAM IS THIS--?

--OH...

...IT'S A NIGHTMARE.

RETRIEVE HER FOR ME.

OKAY, EASY NOW...

...HOW ABOUT WE JUST HELP ME WAKE UP HERE.

HRSSS

HRSSS

FINE--

--IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT THIS DREAM TO GO, THEN I'LL JUST SLICE MY WAY OUT OF--

SLSH

--HRAHH!

DID YOU... DID YOU JUST CUT ME?

...THAT ACTUALLY REALLY HURT.

MAYBE...

HRSSS

...MAYBE THIS ISN'T JUST A DREAM--

--UNFH--

HRRSS

--MAYBE THIS IS SOMETHING WORSE!

YOU HOLD WHICH DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU.

HEY--LOOK--I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS BUT CALL OFF YOUR--UH-- DOGOSAURS...

...OR WHATEVER YOU CALL THEM...

...THIS IS JUST SOME KIND OF MISTAKE...

HRRSSS

COME ON--

--GET OFF OF ME!

THNKSH

THNKSH

THNKSH

THNKSH

WHAT--

--WHAT NOW?!

--?

--HOW ARE YOU HERE?

NOW WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

HELLO--

--CAN SOMEONE *ANSWER ME?!*

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION...

...AND I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE.

WHAT ARE YOU?

YOUR END.

SWIZZSH

OKAY, COME ON--THIS IS MY DREAM--

--AND I COMMAND YOU--OR WHATEVER--

--MAGIC DREAM-SPIRIT LADY--TO TELL ME WHAT IS GOING ON HERE!

HRH?

YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE--

--THIS IS NOT YOUR DREAM.

HUH--?!

FLK

--HFF--!

--WHAT THE--?

--OH...IT REALLY WAS A DREAM?

WAIT--LET'S JUST DOUBLE-CHECK FOR FLYING BOOKS--

--NOPE--WE'RE GOOD--I'M AWAKE.

BUT, I'M SO CONFUSED-- THAT FELT SO...

...REAL?

NO...THIS...THIS IS INSANE--

--I'M LOSING MY MIND.

--I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE--

WHO ARE YOU REALLY?

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT-- YOU SOUND COMPLETELY INSANE...

...AND I MEAN THAT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

I'M SERIOUS, MEL.

YES, AND SO AM I.

IT WAS JUST A DREAM, BELLE.

IF IT WAS JUST A DREAM THEN HOW DID I GET THIS?

UH, I DON'T KNOW--MAYBE WHEN YOU WERE, YOU KNOW, SLEEPING INSTEAD OF RESEARCHING, YOU SLIPPED AND SCRAPED YOUR ARM ON THE TABLE OR SOMETHING?

I WAS RESEARCHING...

...AND I DIDN'T FALL OFF A DESK AND CUT MYSELF--

--SOMETHING WEIRD IS GOING ON.

THE ONLY WEIRD THING THAT'S GOING ON IS THAT THE WEIRD CRAZY LADY WHO LIVES ON MY COUCH IS STARTING TO THINK HER DREAMS ARE REAL.

HERSHEY, I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD HANG AROUND BELLE ANY MORE.

HA--!

--OH, SHUT UP!

I'M NOT CRAZY...

...I THINK...

I'M SURE YOU'RE FINE--

--AND IF, YOU KNOW, IT WASN'T PART OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM--YOU PROBABLY JUST NEED A GOOD NIGHT SLEEP--WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU HAD ONE OF THOSE?

I HONESTLY CAN'T REMEMBER--BACK WHEN I USED TO HAVE A HOUSE AND BED?

THEN MAYBE YOU START LOOKING FOR A PLACE--YOU KNOW--INSTEAD OF JUST BEING MY RESIDENT COUCH SURFER?

YOU JOKE, BUT YOU'D MISS ME.

EH--I THINK YOU OVERVALUE OUR FRIENDSHIP.

I MEAN-- WE COULD ALWAYS TAKE TURNS WITH THE BED.

HA--YOU REALLY HAVE LOST YOUR MIND--

--I'M GOOD, SOFA HOBO.

SWEET DREAMS.

THANKS, JERK--ENJOY YOUR NICE COMFY BED.

I WILL!

MAYBE MEL'S RIGHT...

...MAYBE IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM...

...OR MAYBE--

--I AM LOSING MY MIND!

SERIOUSLY--?!

--THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN EVERY TIME I SHUT MY EYES NOW?

HOW IS THIS GETTING WORSE?

WAIT, THIS... THIS LOOKS FAMILIAR...

...IS THIS TARTARUS?

DOES THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT IS GOING ON--?

--BUT THAT WAS SO LONG AGO*--IT WOULDN'T BE AFFECTING ME NOW--WOULD IT?

NO--THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE--

*SEE BELLE: ANNUAL DEPTHS OF TARTARUS FOR THAT STORY!

--BUT NEITHER DOES A LOT OF THIS.

WHAT ABOUT WHAT THAT FLYING-GLOWY-SPIRIT CHICK SAID... AM I EVEN IN MY OWN DREAM?

OH, YOU'VE GOT TO BE SHITTING ME...

...HERSHEY?

OKAY, SO I'M DEFINITELY IN MY OWN DREAM HERE, AND I'M DEFINITELY CRAZY--

--SO THERE'S THAT...

...BUT HOW DO I GET OUT OF THIS--WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

IS IT BECAUSE OF THAT CABIN?

IT HAS TO BE-- BUT--

--WHY--WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

IT ALL STARTED WITH THAT PLACE--

--MAYBE THAT'S WHERE THIS ALL ENDS.

HRMM?

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE IN MY LIFE...

...THAT CAN ONLY MEAN--

--?!

YOU AGAIN--

--WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

HOW DO YOU KEEP DOING IT?
DOING WHAT?
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.
YEAH, THAT MAKES TWO OF US-- WHY DO YOU KEEP FOLLOWING ME AND SHOWING UP IN MY DREAMS?
I'M NOT FOLLOWING YOU--
--YOU KEEP REACHING OUT FROM HERE.
WHERE EXACTLY IS HERE--
--ARE WE INSIDE MY HEAD?
WE ARE, BUT WE'RE NOT...
...IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE-- THIS--ISN'T THAT SIMPLE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THAT KEEPS BRINGING YOU HERE?
FIRST, I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT THAT YOU THINK MY MIND ISN'T SIMPLE--SO THANK YOU--EGO BOOSTED.
AND SECOND, I ASKED MY QUESTION FIRST-- SO WHY DON'T YOU START TALKING BEFORE I HAVE TO MAKE YOU.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HURT ME.

YOU SEEM PRETTY CONFIDENT ABOUT THAT BUT I WOULDN'T BE SO SUR--

LET'S PUT THIS AWAY FOR NOW.

--HEY!

FWLZ

NOW JUST HOLD STILL FOR A MINUTE.

WHAT THE CRAP--

--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

FWLZ

FWLZ

I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.

THAT'S KIND OF HARD TO BELIEVE FROM SOMEONE WHO JUST CHAINED ME UP, MAGIC HANDS.

JUST CALM DOWN, THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A SECOND.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?

YOU REALLY DO TALK A LOT.

I'M JUST... JUST HANG ON.

THAT'S... THAT'S REALLY WEIRD.

WHAT--

--WHAT'S WEIRD?

WAIT--YOU DIDN'T, LIKE, READ MY MIND OR SOMETHING, DID YOU?

THAT'S REALLY NOT COOL IF YOU DID.

HEH--NO, I DIDN'T READ YOUR MIND--I DON'T NEED TO DO THAT.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WHY WOULDN'T YOU NEED TO?

BECAUSE EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING THROUGH IT IS FORMING AROUND US.

WHAT...?

LOOK.

UHM... WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?

THESE ARE YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS THOUGHTS--BITS AND PIECES, AND FRAGMENTS OF DREAMS.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO.

AND WHY NOT?

BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE JUST SLEEP AND SHIFT THROUGH THEM, BARELY REALIZING THEY DO IT.

I TAKE IT, BASED ON HOW YOU'VE BEEN ACTING, YOU'VE DONE THAT YOUR WHOLE LIFE AND THIS IS ALL NEW TO YOU.

WELL, YEAH--NOT REALLY THE MYSTERY OF THE CENTURY.

WHICH MEANS SOMETHING RECENTLY PUT THIS EXCESS DREAM ENERGY IN YOU THAT I FELT.

WHAT-- THAT SOUNDS SO HOKEY AND DUMB AND--

SOMETHING THAT IS LETTING YOU REACH BEYOND WHAT YOU CAN COMPREHEND.

--OH, SHIT-- THE FACELESS WOMAN--

--THAT MACHINE.*

...BUT HOW?

*SEE BELLE: FROM BEYOND FOR THE MACHINE IN QUESTION.

THE WHO-- AND WHAT MACHINE?

THERE WAS THIS MACHINE THAT REACHED INTO ANOTHER--I GUESS-- DIMENSION AND PULLED THIS WOMAN AND CREATURES THROUGH, AND IT BLEW UP--BUT IT MUST HAVE SOMEHOW--

--REACHED INTO OUR WORLD...

...AND THAT IS FORBIDDEN.

THAT ENERGY DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU.

WHO IS SHE-- I TAKE IT FROM HER THREATS TO YOU IN MY LAST-- *UH* DREAM--THAT'S NOT A FRIEND OF YOURS?

I HAVE NO IDEA AND-- SHE'S NOT--BUT THOSE CREATURES WITH HER-- I'VE SEEN THINGS LIKE THAT BEFORE--WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL HERE.

WELL, *DUH*--

--SORRY, I CAN'T SEEM TO STOP SPEAKING OUT MY THOUGHTS.

THAT WHOLE SPEAKING YOUR MIND STUFF--IT'S NORMAL--WE'RE IN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS SO YOU CAN'T REALLY THINK WITHOUT IT BEING PRESENT. TAKES SOME TIME TO LEARN.

YOU WILL RETURN WHAT YOU HAVE TAKEN.

KRRBBLLKRK

WHAT ABOUT CRACKING HOLES IN THE EARTH--IS THAT SOMETHING YOU CAN TEACH ME?

YOU NEED TO FOCUS YOUR THOUGHTS--THE RULES ARE ONLY WHAT YOU LET THEM BE. I KNOW, THAT'S SOUNDS MORE COMPLICATED THAN IT IS-- BUT, JUST TRUST ME, YOU CAN CONTROL MORE THAN YOU THINK HERE.

GO--

--RETRIEVE WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE.

--SO I CAN JUST THINK YOU GUYS ALL AWAY THEN?

NO--BUT YOU CAN USE IT IN OTHER WAYS.

LIKE HOW?

TO MAKE WEAPONS--

--TO FIGHT--

--TO NOT DIE?

EXACTLY.

SO LIKE FREDDY KRUEGER MEETS THE MATRIX RULES?

SURE--YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT--

FWOOOSH

HOLY, #%@~!

HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
I'VE BEEN PRACTICING FOR A WHILE.
THEN DO THAT TO THE REST OF THOSE THINGS.
THEY'LL JUST KEEP COMING...
BRING ME BOTH OF THEM!
...WE NEED TO TAKE OUT THE ONE WITH A BRAIN.
OH, OKAY, THAT MAKES SENSE.
LET'S DO IT THEN.
I'LL TAKE HER-- YOU DISTRACT THE OTHERS.
OKAY, SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN--
--WAIT, WHAT?!
HRRSSS
OH, COME ON!

THE ONE YOU ARE PROTECTING IS NOT MEANT TO WIELD THE POWER WE CONTROL.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE NEEDS TO DIE BECAUSE YOU WANT WHAT SHE HAS.

WHO ARE YOU--?

--AND WHERE DID YOU EVEN COME FROM?

I THOUGHT I WAS THE LAST ONE LEFT WHO COULD WALK DREAMS.

THEN YOU ARE MORE FOOLISH THAN WE SUSPECTED.

I AM ONE WHO SERVES THE RULER OF THE DREAMVERSE...

SWRZ

--WHAT?!

...NOT YOU, PRETENDER.

SERVES WHO--

--UF--

--WHAT ARE YOU--

--UG--

--TALKING ABOUT?

EASY THERE, CREEPY CONE-FACED NIGHTMARE DOGS.

WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS...WE DON'T HAVE TO--

--DO THIS!

SLSH

HRSS

MAYBE WE DREAM YOU UP SOME FOOD OR SOMETHING-- WHAT DO YOU EAT--?

--OH, PROBABLY HUMAN--NEVER MIND--LET'S THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE.

LOOK-- YOU MADE ME DO THAT.

COME ON...CAN'T WE TALK...OR-- *UH* GROWL ABOUT THIS?

I KILLED MR. DREAD... THERE *IS* NO RULER OF THE DREAMVERSE--IT'S FREE FROM THOSE NIGHTMARES.

HOW NAIVE YOU ARE, RORY--

--YOU BUT MADE WAY FOR THE QUEEN--

--CARABOSSE.

WHO--?

--WAIT... DO YOU KNOW ME?

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

IT NO LONGER MATTERS--

--YOUR PART TO PLAY IS NEARLY AT ITS END--

--AND I AM GOING TO SEE TO IT.

--UFF!

--OR HOW ABOUT WE ALL JUST COOL IT ON THE KILLING EACH OTHER STUFF!

SWRRZSH

YOU ARE TIRESOME!

--OOMMPH!

ARE YOU OKAY?

YEAH--SURE-- I DON'T KNOW-- I'VE NEVER FOUGHT SOMETHING IN MY OWN HEAD BEFORE-- SO PROBABLY NOT.

CAN WE JUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO WAKE UP FROM THIS NIGHTMARE?

YES...AND THANK YOU FOR BACK THERE.

DON'T THANK ME--I WAS JUST GETTING AWAY FROM THOSE FLESH-EATING PUPPIES, SHE JUST HAD LESS TEETH.

HEH-- OKAY.

...AND NO PROBLEM.

THAT'S IT--

--TEAR THEM APART-- WE WILL SIFT THROUGH WHAT REMAINS!

WONDERFUL...

...TELL ME YOU HAVE A PLAN.

DO YOU TRUST ME?

UH--NOT REALLY-- WHY?

JUST HOLD STILL.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M NOT SURE...

WAIT-- THEN MAYBE THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE--

FWWWM

--ERAHHH!

HANG IN THERE...

FWWWM FWWWM

...A LITTLE--

--LONGER!

--NOOAGHHH!

FWWWWWPPSHHH

--:>HUF:<--
:>HUF:<--
ARE YOU-- ARE YOU OKAY?
--I'LL BE FINE--
--HOW ABOUT YOU?
I'M GOOD-- WHAT DID YOU DO?
I TOOK THE DREAM ENERGY FROM INSIDE YOU.
THE SAME ENERGY SHE WAS LOOKING FOR?
YEAH...
AND YOU USED IT AS A BOMB?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
BACK TO NORMAL SLEEP FOR YOU.
AND FOR HER?
I DON'T KNOW...
...BUT WHATEVER IT MEANS...
...WHOEVER SHE IS OR SERVES...
...IT'S DEFINITELY NOT OVER.

The Thorned World of Carabosse.

WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING ME?

MY QUEEN, CARABOSSE-- I APOLOGIZE. THERE WAS UNFORESEEN--

ENOUGH--I KNEW I SMELT THE STENCH OF FAILURE ON YOU...

...BRIAR.

THERE WILL BE NO FORGIVENESS--

PLEASE... FORGIVE ME...

--FOR YOU--

--OR FOR ANY OF THEM.

TOO MUCH TIME HAS BEEN WASTED.

I OVER-ESTIMATED YOU AND I WILL NEED TO HANDLE THIS SLEEPING BEAUTY BY MY OWN MEANS.

THE DREAMVERSE WILL KNOW ITS TRUE RULER SOON ENOUGH.

Philadelphia, PA.

I STILL STAND BY EVERYTHING I SAID BEFORE--

--THERE REALLY IS NOTHING MORE TERRIFYING OR AMAZING AS THE HUMAN MIND.

PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS MAKE UP THIS WORLD...

...THEIR DREAMS BUILD THESE CITIES...

WHAT ABOUT THE CABIN--YOU STILL SEEING THAT EVERY TIME YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES?

NO, FROM WHAT SHE TOLD ME IT WAS A GATEWAY OUT OF MY DREAMS TO THE REST OF THE DREAMVERSE. BUT NOW...

BUT NOW YOU DON'T HAVE THE JUICE TO ACCESS IT?

YEAH...

...AND OUR FEARS AND NIGHTMARES ARE WHAT HELP BRING US TOGETHER...

AND YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO THAT DREAM-LADY WAS?

NO IDEA.

MAYBE YOU DREAMED HER UP.

HA-- MAYBE--

--OOF--!

...FOR BETTER AND WORSE.

OH, HEY-- IT'S YOU!

HI TO YOU TOO.

SORRY, GUESS I SHOULD BE LOOKING WHERE I'M GOING.

YEAH, ONE OF US SHOULD, AT LEAST.

BUT NO MATTER WHAT...

DID YOU KNOW THAT PERSON?

YEAH, THAT WAS THAT RORY GIRL FROM THE LIBRARY.

THE BLIND ONE?

YEAH.

OH-- OKAY.

...WE CAN NEVER TAKE IT FOR GRANTED...

...OR THINK WE CAN CONTROL IT.

BECAUSE WITHOUT IT--

WAIT--DID SHE JUST RECOGNIZE YOU BY SOUND?

NO WAY...

BELLE-- YOU OKAY?

--THERE'S NOTHING.

YEAH...I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING.

The End?

BELLE

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Juan Manuel Rodriguez (C)

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